

January 2010

VOICES

A newsletter from DGS Choral Boosters



Our Mission:

Providing Support and Encouragement for Musical Opportunities

A Note from the President

Another calendar year has begun and we are gearing up for the busiest time in the choral department.

These last weeks before the New York trip will go by quickly. There will be 83 students & 14 adults going on the trip. What a great opportunity! The students participating will perform many of their pieces at the Bon Voyage concert on Feb. 23.

Plans are also beginning for the musical in April and the Choir Show in May. Both are large events, which require many volunteers to make them successful. Please consider volunteering your time to help.

It's not too early to think about next school year. Many of the Choral Booster board members will be 'graduating' this year. Please read the article "Executive Board Elections". If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me or another board member.

We hope to see you at our monthly meetings!

Sue Utesch
President, DGS Choral Boosters

Choral Boosters Meetings

February 8
March 15
April 12
May 10

Newsletter Highlights:

IMEA All State Choirs
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Congratulations to these DGS Students selected by competitive auditions to the IMEA All-State Choirs!



DGS All State Musicians 2010
(Choir, Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band)

All-State Honors Choir

Hank Gordon – Senior – Bass I

Tom Reusz – Senior Bass II

Minh Tran – Senior Alto II

Cory Wilson – Junior – Bass II

All-State Choir

Sam Worlton – Junior – Alto II

Meredith Richard – Junior Soprano I

Kyle Wulf – Junior Bass II

♪ **2010 Event Dates** ♪

January 15 ----- Panera Bread Fundraiser

January 20 --- Lollipop Sales

February 9 --- Annual Vocal Festival

February 23 --- "Bon Voyage" Winter Concert

February 25 – March 1 --- New York Choir Trip

March 9 --- District 99 Honors Vocal Recital

See the Entire Choir Calendar later in this Newsletter for complete information

You've Got Mail

The Choral Boosters and Directors rely on email to circulate a lot of important information. Please help us keep our database up to date by providing us with your e-mail address. It is simple to do just send your name, your students name, the choir(s) they are in and the e-mail address where you would like information to go to Carol Fendrick at cfenddsonnenb@sbcglobal.net.

To join the facebook group go to www.facebook.com, go to groups and look for DGS Choral Boosters. This is an open invitation group.

2010 Fund Raisers

Greetings and Happy 2010 to all!



We start off fundraising for 2010 on Friday, January 15th at **Panera Bread** located at 714 E. Boughton in Bolingbrook. This location is the only Panera that is participating. Bring in a flyer/voucher and present it when you order and we (DGS Choral Boosters) will get a percentage of your order. We will e-mail the flyer/voucher, have it on the website (www.dgschoir.org) and have them available in the choir room. The fundraiser runs from 6a.m.-10p.m. It will be good for a hearty breakfast before finals, a relaxing lunch or dinner to celebrate the end of finals, or a quick snack. Please join us and be sure to present your flyer voucher.

Lollipop sales will begin on January 20th, this fund raiser is open to all Band, Orchestra, and Choir students, and is a tremendous opportunity for the kids to fund their student accounts.

The lollipops come packaged in bags of 60, in an assortment of the most popular flavors. The student pays \$40.00 up front for each bag of lollipops. Of that \$40.00, \$18.00 covers the cost of the Lollipops. Students then sell the lollipops @ \$0.75 each or 3 for \$2.00. The profit of \$22.00 goes directly into the student's account!

This pricing structure insures that at a minimum, the students will receive the \$40.00 that was invested up front. The first pick up date for Lollipops will be Wednesday January 20th. Lollipops will be available for pick up in the hallway outside of the music department beginning at 7:20 AM. Additional pick up dates are listed below, same time and place. Payment can be made by cash or check. Please make checks payable to DGS Fine Arts.

Additional pick up dates:

Monday January 25th - Friday January 29th - Tuesday February 2nd - Friday February 5th -Wednesday February 10th

If you have any questions regarding this fundraising opportunity please contact:

Jeni Robinson - runjenirun@hotmail.com

Jim Gracey – jgracey60@aol.com (312) 446.0403

Janet Lapin - janetlap@hotmail.com

We will shortly be sending out e-mails for **Spiritwear** sales. New this year, we have added our logo (as shown on the top of the first page of this newsletter) silk-screened on hoodies, t-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts, and crew neck sweatshirts. This is our official logo, so will represent your support for all your child's high school years and beyond!! The shirts are available in heather grey or navy. There have been some requests for these to be

available for the New York trip and that is what we are trying for. We will also post this information on the website.

In February we have the **Butter Braid** student account fundraiser co-op with Band. That information will be e-mailed and available on the website.

It is a good idea to start saving money in the student accounts now for the future trips and activities (see the next article). It is hard to come up with all the money the year of the trip, so don't wait. Pick the fundraisers that appeal to you and participate. Choral Boosters *always* appreciates your support. Please help us support your students.

\$ Student Accounts \$

Parents don't forget your students can request money from their student account to be used for any approved choir related fees (private lessons, required ensemble apparel, camp, trips, etc.). All they need to do is to check their balance on the Student Account list posted in the Choir Room and complete a Student Account Refund Request Form. This form should be completed and deposited in the choir mailbox in the Choir Room. Requests approved by the appropriate Choir Director will be reviewed at the monthly Choral Boosters board meeting. Upon approval, a reimbursement shall be made and that amount shall be deducted from the Student Account balance.

Choral Volunteer Opportunities

It takes a lot of coordination and teamwork to run the fantastic programs that we enjoy in our choir department. Please consider volunteering your time for one (or all!) of these upcoming events!

Annual Vocal Fest – Tuesday, February 9

Assist staff with logistics and time monitoring as our talented students experience and learn how to perform a vocal solo for a judge and small audience.

There are 2 shifts available:

5 people are needed from 8:30 to 11am

5 people are needed from 11:45 to 2:30 pm

Bon Voyage Winter Concert – Tuesday, February 23

We will need chaperones for this evening event.

Musical – April 15 – 18

Volunteers needed to hand out posters to local businesses in March, sew costumes, steam costumes, work concessions, assist backstage, sell roses, work as ushers, work costume turn in.

Choir Show – May 20-21

Volunteers needed to help set up, work backstage, usher (both evening and May 21 morning performance for Sender Schools) and clean up.

Choir Banquet – May 23

Volunteers needed to set up and clean up.

Please contact the Choral Booster Volunteer Coordinators via phone or email to let us know if you can volunteer at one of these (or a future) event:

Diane Richard at 960-1766 or at dianegr07@aol.com

Cathy Beecroft at 852-6118 or at rjbcmb@flash.net

*After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing
the inexpressible is music.*
- [Aldous Huxley](#)

Voice Lessons: Is my Child Ready to Start Private Voice Lessons?

If your son or daughter is interested in developing their voice further and seem to have a passion for singing, it may be the right time to pursue private lessons. If they have a natural, pleasant tone quality and are gaining skill in matching pitches accurately, they most likely will have success in developing and improving their solo voice.

Often teenagers enter high school with a simple, pleasant tone quality and a basic skill in matching pitch or hearing harmony. It is amazing to see the growth in teens when these basic skills are developed with a private teacher. As they learn to support their voice with their breath and focus their sound, they will develop a noticeable tone quality change within the first few months of lessons. The more they really want to sing and improve, the more they will practice the techniques they are learning. The more they are motivated to practice, the more they will see improvement in their singing voice.

We believe that all singers can benefit from lessons. If your son or daughter is having trouble matching pitch, lessons may spark a new understanding and they will see definite improvement. Sometimes individual attention is all that a student needs to make a leap in their musical understanding and skill.

If you have questions about your son or daughter in regards to private voice lessons, please feel free to contact a choir teacher for advice.

Your student may start lessons during the second semester by filling out a voice teacher request form in the choir room. Information about lessons and prices are included on the form.

Our current voice teachers are Todd Diehl, Colleen Lingenfelter, Holley McKee, Ingrid Mueller, Jeff Ray, and Joleen Sievers.

A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!!



Thank You

We've had great success this past year with volunteers for Choir. Thank you to all of you and we're hoping for continued success throughout the year. The Fall Concert went smoothly (even in the dark!) and was enjoyed by all. Special thanks go out to those of you who came out to volunteer twice and who baked twice. It was a big effort and we were so glad that our students were able to enjoy the culmination of all their hard work in preparing for the concert.

The volunteers are who make our program work.

Freshman Mixer

The Freshman Mixer was held on October 19 and went off without a hitch. The kids had a great time, learning new music and socializing. We had 80 students and served cake, chips and salsa. And of course our parent volunteers helped set up and serve. Thank you volunteers!! This event has been greatly scaled back due to budget constraints. We would like to host more of a gala and we will when the budget permits in future years.

Middle School Choir Festival

For the Middle School Choir Festival 2010, students from area Junior High's visit DGS after school to practice and then perform with our Ensemble groups. It's a great opportunity for growth and developing new skills and friendships. This program provides a glance into the student's choir future. This program was rescheduled to January 12th at 3:00p.m. DGS Choral Boosters provide after school snacks and a pizza dinner for the group which this year will be 200 students. Thanks to everyone who volunteered.

Choir Banquet

The Choir Banquet will be held on Sunday May 23rd at 1:00p.m. to honor all of our students and celebrate their success. We need many volunteers to make this program a success (See the Choral Volunteer Opportunities article earlier in this newsletter). Our Hospitality Committee is specifically seeking volunteers to work on the planning and coordination of this event. There will be 3-4 one hour meetings held during the day to include student input. We especially need someone who can create a DVD of still pictures and video from concerts and the tour to show during the banquet. Two students have volunteered so far: Meredith Richard and Samantha Worlton. However two more are needed to help with the media and our teacher appreciation project. Please contact our Hospitality Board Members, Nancy Rick- Janis at 630-512-0079 nancyjanis@netscape.net or Kathy Schreck 630 963-3073 rschreck@mwe.com if you can help with the planning, media and teacher appreciation project. Other volunteers (e.g. set-up, clean-up), please contact our Volunteer Coordinators: Diane Richard at 630 960-1766 or at dianegr07@aol.com and Cathy Beecroft at 630 852-6118 or at rjbcmb@flash.net

Choir Musical: Godspell April 15, 16, 17, and 18...Mark your calendars now!

Don't miss this exciting production about the process of how a community is formed. As the people struggle and celebrate life's lessons, they learn how to support one another. This musical is appropriate for all ages and is sure to make you smile!

The cast includes 75 members of the DGS A Cappella Choir with lively choreography in an urban setting. The directors include: Ms. Tiffany Bruce - Drama, Mrs. Laura Coster - Music, Ms. Nancy Bocek -Choreography, Mr. Glenn Williams - Pit Band Director, and Mr. Hunter Evans -Technical Director.

♪ Musical Message from Laura Coster ♪

A Few Thoughts on Singing...Why is it Valuable for your Teen? from Laura Coster

Singing is an art of the mind and soul which can improve a teen's health and possibly even career skills. Singing is also great fun!

If one wants to be a great singer, it requires immense self discipline, loads of hard work, and consistent practice. The advantages of singing can groom an individual to develop a solid work ethic so that he or she will be successful in many endeavors they pursue.

Singing a meaningful text can make a teen more emotionally healthy and optimistic. Teens need positive messages and the time to reflect on them. Music and text can help people discover their thoughts and feelings about life in a meaningful way and help foster an emotionally healthy personality.

Singing gives teens a great amount of pleasure, regardless of their level of skill. Relaxation and happiness can be experienced while singing. It is an inexpensive means to add meaning and positive experiences to their day. It is social and brings teens together. Singing together in a group develops teamwork in a unique and satisfying way.

We know the things that relax us are good for our health and fitness. Singing helps to increase the capacity of our lungs and blood flow. It requires breathing techniques that are beneficial for general health. A correct posture and breathing technique often leads to better overall health. Singing translates to good physical as well as mental health, just like walking and running.



Madrigals Performing at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Downers Grove South High School Choral Boosters

Executive Board Elections

The Downers Grove South High School Choral Boosters are accepting nominations for officers to serve on the Executive Board for the 2010-2011 school year.

The officer positions are a President, Vice President of Fundraising, Vice President of Membership, Vice President - Volunteer Coordinator, Vice President of Hospitality, Vice President of Communications, Vice President-Committee Liaison, Treasurer and Secretary.

If you are interested in serving, please contact a current Board member or Bob Schreck by phone at 312-984-7582 or 630-963-3073 or by e-mail at rschreck@mwe.com. Nominations may also be made at the next regular meeting of the Executive Board, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2010. Election of Officers will take place at the March meeting. Those elected will shadow the current officer through June.

The following is a brief description of the duties of each officer. Often two people will share the duties of the office. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board for a more detailed explanation.

President

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Choral Boosters and responsible for the overall management of the Organization. The President presides at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Board, and represents the Choral Boosters at various Choir Program events and functions.

Vice President of Fundraising

This officer coordinates and manages all fundraisers and other efforts to raise money for the Organization.

Vice President of Membership

This officer directs efforts to have parents become part of our organization and maintains records of the members.

Vice President - Volunteer Coordinator

This officer is responsible for obtaining volunteers for social activities, competitions and Choir Program events.

Vice President of Hospitality

This officer coordinates staffing, food and supplies for social activities, competitions and other Choir Program events.

Vice President of Communications

This officer disseminates information on the Choir Program through its website, newsletter or otherwise.

Vice President-Committee Liaison

This officer performs the duties of the President in the President's absence and serves as a liaison between the various committees and the Executive Board.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the Organization's funds and maintains records of receipts and disbursements. Treasurer also maintains accounts for students in the Choir Program.

Secretary

The Secretary takes minutes at meetings of the Executive Board and assists the President in conducting meetings.

Please give Bob a call to find out more about the positions available or to submit a nomination.

♪ Membership is where it all begins ♪ It's still not too late to join!

Support your choir student by joining the Choral Boosters. Membership forms are available at the end of this Newsletter, so please fill it out and send it back to school.

2009-2010 Choral Booster Executive Board

"Providing Support and Encouragement For Musical Opportunities"

Name	Position	E-mail
Sue Utesch	President	chilipeppermom@gmail.com
Carol Fendrick	Secretary	cfenddsonnenb@sbcglobal.net
John Kohls	Treasurer	johnkohls@sbcglobal.net
Bob Schreck	V.P. – Committee Liaison	rschreck@mwe.com
Steve & Jan Junk	V.P. - Communications	stevengjunk@aol.com jkjunk@aol.com
Debbie Stelling	V.P. - Fundraising	debbiestelling@comcast.net
Nancy Rick-Janis	V.P. - Hospitality	nancyjanis@netscape.net
Kathy Schreck	V.P. - Hospitality	rschreck@mwe.com
Liz O'Toole	V.P. – Membership	lotjot@aol.com
Diane Richard Cathy Beecroft	V.P. – Volunteer Coordinator	dianegr07@aol.com rjbcmb@flast.net
Jim Gracey	FOFA Rep	jgracey60@aol.com
Debbie Drews	FOFA Rep	ptamomdd@sbcglobal.net

DGS Choir New York Trip Update

We are counting down the days until our trip to New York City! A group of 97 choral students & adults will be leaving Chicago very early on Thursday, Feb. 25. We'll spend 5 days in a flurry of activity around the city. The group will perform at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Madison Sculpture Garden, and the IBM Atrium. The students will also participate in a New York Offstage Clinic.

We'll be able to see two Broadway shows. Everyone will see *"In the Heights"* and then be able to choose between either *"Phantom of the Opera"* or *"West Side Story."* The trip will also include visits to Time Square, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, Battery Park and Ellis Island, St. Paul's Chapel/Ground Zero, the Empire State Building and Grand Central Station. The night before heading home, the group will cap off the trip with a dinner/dance cruise around New York Harbor.



Come Join the Downers Grove South Choral Boosters 2009-2010

What we do:

- **Annual DGS Musical**

This is the annual highlight for our students and for the DGS Choral Staff. The Choral Boosters assist staff with coordination of costumes, choreographers, clinicians, equipment, copyrighted musical scores, ushers and other needed resources.

- **Communications with Parents**

Periodic email updates & announcements on upcoming events; help coordinate communications with school staff and parents.

“VOICES” Newsletter – great informational resource for staff & parents!

Website (www.dgschoir.org)

- **Annual Vocal Fest**

Talented students experience and learn how to perform in an audition. Choral Boosters assist staff with logistics and monitoring.

- **Promote Opportunities** to students pursuing higher education and careers in vocal music.

- **Choir Concerts**

Choral Boosters assist staff and students by providing chaperones, coordination assistance and complimentary snacks to parents and guests.

- **Annual Middle School Choir Festival**

Choral Boosters assist staff in hosting this after school event for middle school students at DGS – introducing students to the DGS Choral Program.

- **Special Events and Field Trips**

Choral Boosters assist staff with various events.

In February, 2010 a group of students will have an opportunity for an educational and performing field trip to New York City!

Additionally, each select choir group performs at a variety of events throughout the year. The involvement of Choral Boosters is invaluable.

- **Annual Music Awards Banquet**

Choral Boosters help to arrange this event to honor our Students’ efforts and successes.

By joining the DGS Choral Boosters, you remain connected with your student’s interests and activities, help enhance your student’s high school experience, and be a positive influence on their future.

Won’t you join us? The annual DGS Choral Boosters membership fee is only **\$20 per family**.



Detach and Send with Membership

Simply fill out the form below and either have your student drop it in the mailbox in the Choir Room, or mail to:
DGS Choral Boosters, C/O Eileen Sejnost, Downers Grove South High School – Music Dept., 1436 Norfolk, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

Parent Name(s): _____

Student Name(s): _____

Mailing address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent email: _____

2009-2010 Annual Family Membership Fee: \$20 Other donation (thank you!): \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **DGS Choral Boosters**.

♪ Save the Dates ♪

2009-2010 South High School Choir Calendar

"Igniting a passion for the arts in every learner."

Date	Event	Time	Place	Ensemble
January				
1/27-30	IMEA All-State	All Day	Peoria, IL	SS
February				
8	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	B124	Parents
9	Vocal Festival	All Day	Music Suite	DGS Choirs
11	NYC Rehearsal	7-8:30 PM	B126	SS: Choir
16	NYC Rehearsal	7-8:30 PM	B126	SS: Choir
23*	DGS Choirs "Bon Voyage"	7:00 PM	Auditorium	DGS Choirs
	Final Student/Parent Meeting	8:30 PM	Auditorium	SS: Choir
25-March 1	DGS Choirs/NYC Tour	All Day	New York, NY	SS: Choir
March				
9	D99 Honors Vocal Recital	7:00 PM	Gloria Dei	SS
15	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	B124	Parents
April				
12	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	B124	Parents
15-18*	Musical: GODSPELL	TBA	Auditorium	AC, PO
May				
10	Choral Boosters	7:00 PM	B124	Parents
17*	Choir Show Dress Rehearsal	6-9:00 PM	Auditorium	FG, FB, CC, TC, FS, CS, TE
20-21*	Choir Show	7:00 PM	Auditorium	FG, FB, CC, TC, FS, CS, TE
21*	Choir Show for Sender Schools	Morning	Auditorium	FG, FB, CC, TC, FS, CS, TE
23	Choir Banquet	1:00 PM	Cafetorium/Auditorium	DGS Choirs
27*	Spring Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium	AC, WE
June				
2	Madrigal Singers Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Madrigal Singers
4*	Graduation	5:00 PM	Stadium	AC, WE

*Required performance for the quarter grade

AC = A Cappella Choir; TC= Treble Choir; CC= Concert Choir; CS = Chamber Singers; FB = Freshmen Boys Chorus; FG= Freshmen Girls Chorus; M = Madrigals; TE = Treble Ensemble; FS= Freshman Select; CS= Chamber Singers, PO = Pit Orchestra; SB = Symphonic Band; SS = Select Students; WE = Wind Ensemble